

CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO TAKE TO MCNEIL RIVER

- ☐ A storm proof, high-quality sturdy tent able to withstand high winds and driving rain with a good rain fly, ground cloth, stakes, tie down cords and a tent repair kit. A low-quality cheap tent will not provide you adequate shelter.
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Air mattress or foam pads (tent sites are graveled)
- ☐ Complete cook kit and eating utensils (note that a propane cook stove is available for your use in the cook cabin so you do NOT need to bring a camp cook stove)
- ☐ Food for your intended length of stay plus several extra days (in case weather delays your departure). Foods that create minimal scraps are preferred
- ☐ Water bottles
- ☐ Water filter or other water treatment (rain water and/or creek water is available but it should be filtered or treated before consuming)
- ☐ Lantern or flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ Matches and/or lighters
- ☐ Toilet paper, paper towels, etc. (Pit toilets are available only at camp. Please note that NO used paper products may be left at the viewing area or in the surrounding brush. Bring a separate sealable plastic bag to hold your used items for the return trip to camp)
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Toilet articles
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Sunglasses and sunscreen (just in case!)
- ☐ Good quality raincoat, rain hat (with brim) and rain pants. Ponchos are **NOT** recommended
- ☐ Several changes of clothes including extra socks. Wool or synthetic clothing is best for rainy cold days (generally, the worst you can expect is cloudy rainy weather with temperatures in the 40's; at best, it will be sunny with temperatures in the 60's)
- ☐ Warm hat and gloves
- ☐ Towel (for the sauna!)
- ☐ **Hip boots – are essential for wading through mud and water when crossing McNeil River lagoon.** The icy cold water may be 2-3 feet deep. The mud can be like walking in peanut butter - it is very easy to step right out of your boots and lose your balance so your boots should fit your feet well.
- ☐ Hiking boots or shoes for around camp and while at the viewing sites
- ☐ Backpack for transporting camera equipment, extra clothing, food and water between camp and the bear viewing areas (a distance of 2 miles)
- ☐ Fishing equipment and a valid sport fishing license if you intend to fish
- ☐ Plastic bags (to protect food, clothing and camera equipment from rain)
- ☐ Reading material and playing cards (in case of foul weather)
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Camera, lenses, tripod and lots of film (please note that there is NO electricity at the camp to recharge batteries so bring extra)
- ☐ Duffle bags lined with plastic bags or other water resistant container to transport your gear (in case it's raining when you arrive or your gear gets dropped in the water when (un)loading the float plane). While not necessary, river dry bags work well.